



KIRKHAM & WESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Weekly Newsletter – 15th January 2021

Remote learning - Thank you!

I must start by once again saying a huge thank you to all of our amazing children and their wonderful parents. We continue to be blown away by your commitment and hard work.

We were all disappointed to be facing another lockdown, however as a school we are trying to put all that we can in place to make the best of a challenging situation. I know the teachers would much rather be stood in front of their class teaching rather than making videos and setting and marking work online. We are endeavouring to try and enable the children to work as independently as possible to minimise the impact on you as parents, especially when you are trying to work from home at the same time. However, we recognise that this is harder the younger the child.

To try and minimise input from parents, the class teachers are recording lots of videos and it is important that the children watch the relevant teaching/explanation video before attempting to complete the linked activity. Sometimes this will be included under the portfolio but it may also be under the class story. The children should be able to move easily between the two.

The class teacher will endeavour to work to the timetable included in the work pack to try and keep a routine in place for the children.

Technical Issues

We are aware that a number of families have been experiences technical issues with class dojo especially work disappearing when they have completed it and are trying to send it. This is I am sure incredibly frustrating. We have contacted the help desk about this. They have made a few suggestions about what to try if this happens which may help:

- If using the app eg on a tablet - Try deleting and reinstalling the app as it will force an update.
- If using the web eg on a laptop it is best to use either Google Chrome or Firefox as the web browser

If you continue to get this issue please could you email me head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk and include the details of which device you are using and in the case of a tablet which version of IOs or Android is installed so that we can pass it on to the support desk.

Work Packs

Thank you to all the parents who have picked up their child's pack. It was lovely to see so many of our parents and children socially distanced of course – we miss you!

We will try to deliver the remaining work packs on Monday so that the teacher can plan to use them from Tuesday.

Please can any children who come into school part time bring their work pack with them. Children in school are completing the same home learning as the children at home.

Devices

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire in relation to devices and access to the internet. We have hopefully managed to accommodate everyone who got in touch. I know we had a number of technical hitches using 'school' based devices at home but think they have now all been resolved. If your child is still experiencing issues with your devices please ring Mel Clarke in the office.

If you are struggling for a device – please get in touch. If you have more than one child it is preferable for the children to have access to a device each so that they are able to follow their own timetable. We do also have some headphones that we could lend out if you have more than one child working at once.

Informal Catch Up Sessions

The general feedback from parents picking up work packs was that the children were able to work more independently than last lock down but they are really missing the social side of being with their friends. Therefore, we are hoping to organise informal whole class catch up sessions starting in the next couple of weeks. I will be sending guidelines and an electronic permission letter home if you would like your child to take part in these. I know that the children who took part in our catch up sessions last lockdown enjoyed the opportunity to 'see' their classmates.

Staffing Update

Thank you for all your lovely comments regarding my forthcoming retirement. A number of parents have asked if it is related to the stresses of the COVID situation over the last year. I can assure you that it is totally unrelated. Much as I love my job, teaching is a demanding career which takes up a lot of evening and weekend time and I simply wish to have the opportunity to spend more time with my family including my elderly parents.

Whilst it will be a huge wrench to leave this very special school and the wonderful staff, children, families and Governors that have been such a huge part of my life for over 23 years, this September will be a positive time for a new Headteacher to come in and it will bring an exciting new chapter for KWPS.

Keep in Touch – We are Here to Help

As I said last week, I do feel that Class Dojo is helping us to keep better connected to our children and parents during this lockdown. However, we know that it will be a challenging time for many of our parents so please do not hesitate to get in touch – we are here to help – not just in relation to home learning.

I am available via email, Class Dojo, facebook messenger at most times or you can contact me on weekdays by telephone at school.

Best wishes and thank you for all your support

Rhiannon Jones

